

## Mrs. Powers Seen Better After Reported Pill Dose

25X1A

Washington, April 20 (UPI)—Mrs. Barbara Powers, 27-year-old wife of U-2 pilot Francis Gary Powers, was taken to a hospital today suffering from what police reported were the effects of an overdose of sleeping pills. She was later described as out of danger.

Powers accompanied her to the hospital.

### Rallied After Few Hours

The Powerses have been living for several weeks at an apartment in suburban Alexandria, Va., and Mrs. Powers was taken to the Alexandria Hospital shortly after 3:30 this morning. She was transferred to Georgetown University Hospital in Washington at 6:20 A.M.

The Alexandria Hospital said she was treated there for "medication reaction" and Lt. Nelson Rickey, of the District of Columbia police, said investigating officers were told Mrs. Powers had taken approximately 28 nembutal tablets, a barbiturate drug used to induce sleep. He did not say who gave this information.

Mrs. Powers was unconscious when admitted to Georgetown and an attending physician said her condition was very serious at that time. However, a few hours later, she was reported semi-conscious and the hospital's executive director, Charles D. Shields said:

"Her condition is still being evaluated, but she is in satisfactory condition and out of danger."

Later, the hospital issued a second statement which said:

"She [Mrs. Powers] was admitted by ambulance in a comatose condition and is being studied . . . to determine the cause of her illness which is probably due to a medication reaction."

"Her condition is satisfactory."

### "Medication Available"

Dr. G. E. Schreiner, who is attending Mrs. Powers, said she is being treated for acute gastritis because it is known "medication was available to her." But, he added, "we don't know if she took them."

Powers remained at the George-

town hospital until mid-morning and then left "to get things squared away," a doctor said. Powers was not available for comment and hospital officials declined to say what he told them of his wife's illness.

Powers, now 32, came into the news in May 1960 after his U-2 spy plane was brought down while on a picture-making reconnaissance mission over the Soviet Union.

### Released In Trade

Convicted as a spy, he was sentenced to ten years' imprisonment but was freed last February in a deal involving the simultaneous release of Col. Rudolf Abel, a Soviet spy serving a 30-year sentence in this country.

The Central Intelligence Agency cleared Powers of any dereliction of duty and he was returned to his \$30,000-a-year CIA job.

Mrs. Powers is the former Barbara Moore of Albany, Ga. The couple was married in 1954 and there are no children.

Mrs. Powers was living with her husband at his base in Turkey before he went down in Russia.